

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB

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O 301800Z NOV 76 ZFF4

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UNCLAS STATE 291728 TOSEC 310293

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT LETTER TO EDITOR WASHINGTON POST
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, HEADED "THE KOREAN SCANDAL AND
ASIAN SECURITY." THE WRITER, T.J. COOLIDGE, JR., IS
CHAIRMAN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S EAST ASIA PROGRAM AND
MEMBER OF THE U.S.-KOREA ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

2. ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION REPORTED IN YOUR PAPER
INVOLVING U.S. CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE
KOREAN CIA AND A KOREAN RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON BRING
AMERICANS, ONCE AGAIN, FACE TO FACE WITH THE POSSIBILITY
OF A MAJOR SCANDAL OF WATERGATE PROPORTIONS COMPLICATED
BY DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITIES. WE CAN HOPE THAT BEHIND
THE NEWS STORIES THE COMPETENT INVESTIGATORY AGENCIES
WILL CLEAR THE MATTER UP WITH DISPATCH AND, IF THE WORST
TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, DIPLOMATS WILL BE EXPELLED, KOREAN
CIA OPERATIONS IN THE U.S. WILL BE CURTAILED, CONGRESS-
MEN DISCIPLINED AND ALL THE FACTS REVEALED AND THE PROBLEM
SETTLED. HOWEVER IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS THOUGH THE
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ISSUE CAN BE SO SIMPLY WRAPPED UP. IF THE KOREAN GOV-

ERNMENT IS IN FACT INVOLVED THIS WILL AFFECT THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN IN THE WESTERN

PACIFIC BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS WITH KOREA WILL BE PUT UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE. THE NEWS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN YOUR PAPER ALSO INDICATES THE DANGER OF PUBLIC OPINION OPERATING ON A DOUBLE STANDARD. YOU USE THE TERM "KOREAN BRIBERY" BUT IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE CALLED "WASHINGTON CORRUPTION." THE DANGER IS THAT IT WILL BE EASY TO MAKE A WHIPPING BOY OUT OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT THAT IS UNPOPULAR WITH LARGE SEGMENTS OF AMERICAN OPINION, THEREBY LETTING AMERICA OFF THE HOOK FOR ITS OWN SHORTCOMINGS.

3. THERE MAY BE ANOTHER ISSUE IN THE AMERICAN CIA POLICY OF BUGGING PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES OF ALLIES. WOULD THIS BE A PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES WITH GERMANY, ENGLAND, FRANCE AND JAPAN? IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW IT COULD NOT BECOME AN ISSUE IN VIEW OF THE EASE WITH WHICH SUCH SENSITIVE OPERATIONS CAN BE LEAKED. PROBABLY MOST SERIOUS OF ALL IS THE FACT THAT THE ALLEGATIONS HAVE POISONED THE ATMOSPHERE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION CONCERNING OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN ASIA AND TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN PARTICULAR. NOW A CONGRESSMAN VOTING ON WHAT HE THINKS ARE STRICTLY SECURITY INTERESTS MAY BE TARRED WITH THE BRUSH OF SCANDAL. WILL OUR LAWMAKERS, WHETHER OR NOT INNOCENT OF IMPROPER DEALINGS WITH THE KOREANS, HAVE THE COURAGE TO VOTE OBJECTIVELY ON LONG RANGE U.S. INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

4. IT IS VITAL THAT CONCERNED AMERICANS REFLECT AND SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF OUR LONG RANGE INTERESTS AND NOT BUCKLE UNDER THE RENEWED ATTACKS THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM OPPONENTS OF OUR PRESENT ASIAN DEFENSE POLICY. EVEN IF THE FACTS FROM THE INVESTIGATION HURT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRESENT REGIME IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT OUR FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES GO BEYOND THE POLITICS OF A PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT AND WE OUGHT NOT LET THE HEAT OF AN INVESTIGATION MELT THE ENTIRE FRAMEWORK OF OUR ASIAN RELATIONSHIPS AND POLI-

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CIES. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CORRUPTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESPIONAGE, POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE291728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760443-1009
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976112/aaaaabxv.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, JA, KN, WASHINGTON POST, CIA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006